

News and Views

U.S.A. Changes Policy

Veterinarians living in the United States, but who received their training elsewhere, will now be accepted for employment by the U.S. Civil Service Commission following the successful completion of an examination program for which they are awarded certificates. However, such employment is usually contingent on U.S. citizenship. Developed by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates, the examination program will replace the use of a list of approved foreign veterinary schools. At present, a foreign-trained veterinarian has to be a graduate of a school on the list before going before licensing boards or being considered for employment by educational and research institutions or government agencies. To date, some 17 veterinarians have been awarded certificates.

"Mangy Coyotes" — More Truth Than Fiction

The Alberta Veterinary Services Branch has recently received a number of inquiries concerning "mangy" coyotes. Dr. H. N. Vance, Assistant Director of the Veterinary Services Branch, reports that a few of these animals have been examined by the Veterinary Laboratory and found to have a type of mange. A study conducted at Rochester, Alberta also showed that a large percentage of coyotes found dead or trapped this winter were suffering from mange. Dr. Vance stated that this particular type of mange is unlikely to spread to other domestic animals, the main reason being that the mite is thought to be specific to the coyote. Also, the transmission of the disease requires closer association between the infected coyote and other animals for a relatively long period of time.

Dairy Cattle Numbers Declining in Canada

Canada could be faced with insufficient milk to meet domestic requirements and to maintain normal exports if the number of dairy cattle continues to decline. In a recent talk, D. B. Goodwillie, Director of the Dairy Products Division of the Canada Department of Agri-

culture, reported that Canadian milk production in 1965 was the lowest it has been for five years, despite the fact that production per cow has increased during this period. The prairie provinces, which have always been net exporters of dairy products in the past, imported butter for the first time in 1965. National butter production declined by 15 million pounds and consumption exceeded production for the second consecutive year. According to Mr. Goodwillie, last year's national butter deficit was 20 million pounds. While Canada's milk production declined in 1965, world production increased by 2 per cent. Many European countries, importers of Canadian dairy products in the past, are rapidly becoming self-sufficient in these products.

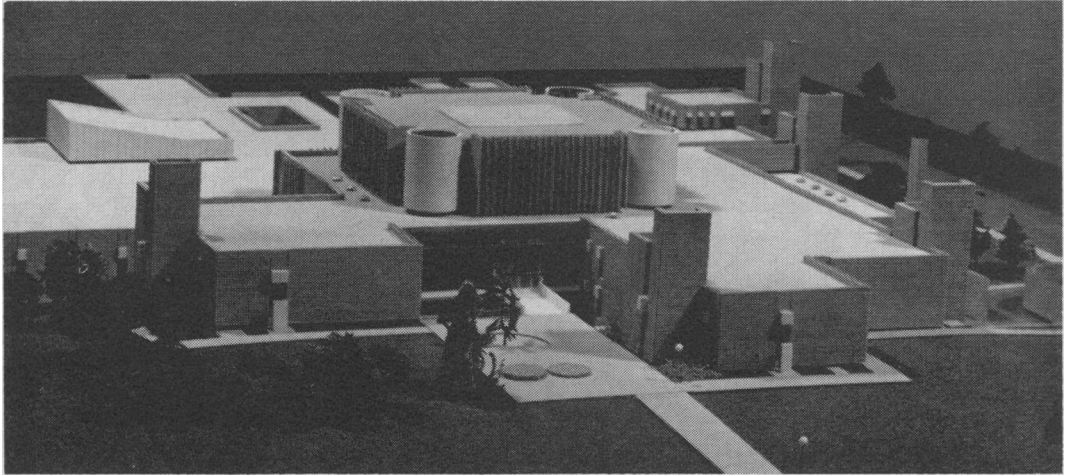
Canada's dairy industry seems to be faced with two alternatives. It must either expand production to supply growing demands resulting from a national population increase, or it must resort to importing dairy products from areas which have lower production costs.

Charolais Imports — More On The Way

The federal government will entertain requests for more import permits for Charolais cattle from France, it was revealed recently by Dr. Ken Wells, Veterinary Director General. Dr. Wells cautioned that if the incidence of foot-and-mouth disease in some European countries rises, the government may have to cancel the permits. Dr. Wells explained that Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, West Germany and Italy all had severe outbreaks of the disease last year. He stated that if there are outbreaks in France, the government will take no chances and will cancel the permits. Last year the government said it would allow an importation under strict health surveillance. Requests for 850 head were received. However, as only 122 could be accommodated in the French quarantine station at Brest, quotas were established.

New Provincial Presidents

At recent provincial veterinary meetings across the country, three new presidents were elected. In Ontario, Dr. V. C. R. Walker of Willowdale was elected president of the Ontario Veterinary Association. Dr. Walker succeeds Dr. G. K. Boyce of London as leader of



A model of the multi-million dollar complex that will house the new Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. The structure, the central part of which will rise four storeys, will contain an estimated 160,000 square feet of floor space, mostly at ground level. The exterior will be grey, smooth-faced prairie brick and the exterior trim pre-cast concrete with an exposed aggregate facing. One unit of the new building was constructed last year in time for the first students to begin the professional course.

the regulatory and administrative organization of over 900 veterinarians. Dr. Walker graduated from O.V.C. in 1947 and is employed in research by the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories.

In Manitoba, Dr. R. S. Butler of Dauphin was elected to the presidency of the Manitoba Veterinary Association. Dr. Butler succeeds Dr. Jon Gudmundson of Morden.

In Alberta, Dr. Jack Greenway of Acme was elected president of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Greenway succeeds Dr. R. J. Avery of Lethbridge.

Veterinary Research Awards

Five Canada Medical Research Council Awards have been made recently to veterinarians at the University of Guelph. The three veterinarians are members of the faculty of the Ontario Veterinary College. Dr. D. G. Ingram of the department of veterinary bacteriology, received two grants from the Canada Medical Research Council; one, totalling \$12,000 is for research on "the serum proteins in plasmacytosis of mink" and covers a two year period beginning April 1, 1966. The second is for a total of \$27,000 over a three year period beginning April 1966, and is in support of a project entitled "the role of immuno-conglutinin on non-specific immunity".

Dr. L. H. Karstad of the department of avian pathology, wildlife diseases, and virology, also received two grants. One of these will support a project entitled "studies on the

epizootiology of leptospirosis", to the amount of \$10,700. A second grant of \$4,580 is for research studies on the "etiology of viral plasmacytosis of mink".

Dr. W. J. B. Ditchfield, also of the department of avian pathology, wildlife diseases and virology, received a grant totalling \$11,600 for a two year period to support research studies on "the epidemiology of vesicular stomatitis and related viruses".

Dr. S. D. Stirk Honoured

Well known by many Canadian veterinarians, Dr. S. D. Stirk of Brampton was made a lifetime honorary member of the Ontario Veterinary Association at a banquet held recently in Brampton. Dr. and Mrs. Stirk were guests at the banquet. Offering congratulations on Dr. Stirk's appointment were Dr. K. Wells, Veterinary Director General; Dr. T. L. Jones, principal of the Ontario Veterinary College; Dr. Harold Wharton from the Department of Health, Toronto, and many others. Dr. Stirk has practiced in Brampton for about 54 years. Four years ago, the livestock industry of the district held a dinner for Dr. and Mrs. Stirk and more than 400 people were in attendance.

Ontario Rabies Research

The Research Branch of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests in conducting

field research into the current outbreak of rabies in the wildlife of Ontario. Several government agencies are working together to gain a comprehensive understanding of how the disease is propagated. A study of the geographic distribution of rabies in relation to agricultural land use and known densities of wildlife population is underway. The seasonal incidence of rabies is being investigated in relation to the sex and age of the fox and skunk vectors. In addition, the habits of foxes and skunks, as they relate to the transmission of rabies, are being studied. Radio transmitter collars are being put on foxes to determine their daily and seasonal movements which are of particular importance in determining the amount of contact between individual animals at various times of the year. The red fox and the striped skunk are the two most important wild carnivores involved in the transmission of rabies in Ontario. Together they account for 98% of all rabies cases in wildlife.

Skeletal Study In Dogs

One of the major concerns to owners and breeders of the toy breeds of dogs, patellar luxation, is being studied at the Ontario Veterinary College. Dr. A. J. Cawley, head of the division of small animal medicine and surgery, and Dr. R. W. Putnam, graduate student, are cooperating on a two year study of the condition. The research is being supported by the Morris Animal Foundation, Denver, Colo. Drs. Cawley and Putnam hope to determine if the condition is due to an inherited change in the knee joint and what the change is. If successful, it may be possible to determine at an early age which dogs are likely to develop the luxation condition.

Transmission Of Animal Parasites

A recent editorial in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association pointed out that pet owners with small children should take particular pains to see that their pets are free of parasites that may cause disease in children. The editorial explains that the ova of the parasite *Toxocara canis* found in pups and kittens can be transmitted to children, causing visceral larva migrans. The disease results from migration of the larvae through the various body tissues. The infection is usually acquired by pre-school children because of their propensity for sucking toys

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or fingers which have been contaminated by the parasite ova. The enforcement of hygienic practices in the home, keeping young children from overly intimate association with young dogs and cats, and the elimination of parasites in the animals is the surest way of preventing the spread of the disorder to children. Veterinarians have long urged pet owners to have their dogs and cats dewormed for the pet's own sake. Now, it is pointed out by the editorial, deworming is even more important because of the danger of worm infection in children. Especially serious is the lodging of larvae in the children's eye structures, a condition which may cause visual disturbance.

Martin Appointed in Alberta

The appointment is announced of P. J. Martin to the staff of the Alberta Livestock Branch. Mr. Martin's duties will be in the area of animal nutrition. They will include reporting feed analysis results from the Alberta Feed Testing Laboratory and preparing recommendations for the most efficient use of feeds submitted. He will be working in connection with the expansion of this service and follow-up recommendations. He will also be doing extension work in the field of Animal Nutrition. Mr. Martin has had considerable experience in cattle and swine production. He obtained his B.S.A. with a major in Animal Science from the University of Saskatchewan and has completed work for his M.Sc. in Animal Nutrition from the same university.